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Massachusetts Environmental Trust Awards Nearly \$500,000 in Grants to Non-Profit Organizations and Municipalities

*Funds to promote water protection and other environmental initiatives
come from sales of environment-themed license plates*

BOSTON – A project to remove abandoned fishing gear from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a program to encourage non-chemical means of controlling aquatic invasive species, and a study of possible effects of pollution on terns at Monomoy Island are among the recipients of nearly \$500,000 in grants from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET), Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles announced today.

Since its founding 20 years ago as part of the Boston Harbor cleanup, MET has awarded over \$17 million in grants to organizations statewide that provide a wide array of environmental services, from supporting water projects in their communities to protecting coastal habitats and more. The grants – funded from the sale of the environmentally-themed license plates (Right Whale & Roseate Terns, the Leaping Brook Trout and the Blackstone Valley Mill), and with fines for environmental violations – help non-profit organizations and local governments perform various projects dealing with water protection, human health, and environmental education.

“It’s because of 50,000 motorists in Massachusetts who purchased these license plates that we can grant money to organizations across the state that are focusing their efforts on the environment,” said Secretary Bowles. “We are able to give almost a half a million dollars this year in grant money because of citizens deciding to spend a little extra on something so simple as a license plate.”

Established as a state trust by the Legislature in 1988, MET is governed by a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The unrestricted grant program awards grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$70,000.

Below is a complete list of this year's grant recipients.

Organization Name:	Housatonic Valley Association, Inc.
Description:	To map key cold water habitat and degraded coldwater habitat in three towns and create Best Management Practices that can guide towns, landowners, and land trusts.
Amount Awarded:	\$7,404
Geographical Area	Western (Pittsfield, Hinsdale, Richmond)
Organization Name:	Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Description:	To determine whether strains of Salmonella found in common terns at Monomoy NWR are the same as those found in nearby sources of sewage outfall, contaminated water and prey species.
Amount Awarded:	\$29,915
Geographical Area	Cape Cod
Organization Name:	Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
Description:	To strengthen and expand green cleaning and chemical substitution efforts.
Amount Awarded:	\$40,000
Geographical Area:	Greater Boston
Organization Name:	Toxics Action Center
Description:	To limit the use of pesticides to treat invasive species in Massachusetts waters and encourage alternative control methods.
Amount Awarded:	\$15,000
Geographical Area	Statewide
Organization Name:	UMass/ Boston -Env., Coastal & Ocean Sciences
Description:	To provide scholarships to the 2008 Coastal Environmental Sensor Network Conference
Amount Awarded:	\$10,000
Geographical Area	Statewide
Organization Name:	Vineyard Conservation Society, Inc.
Description:	To create a public education campaign regarding water quality deterioration caused by nitrogen contamination from septic systems and cesspools.
Amount Awarded:	\$18,750
Geographical Area	Cape and Islands (Martha's Vineyard)

Organization Name:	Connecticut River Watershed Council		
Description:	To construct a water-quality laboratory and volunteer training room.		
Amount Awarded:	\$35,000		
Geographical Area	Western	(Greenfield)	
Organization Name:	Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences		
Description:	To develop an ecotoxicological knowledge and expertise base to protect vernal pools and their associated water resources from point and non-point source pollution.		
Amount Awarded:	\$25,000		
Geographical Area	Statewide		
Organization Name:	Massachusetts Audubon Society		
Description:	To assess sources and types of potential pollutants in Allens Pond, create pro-active approaches and management decisions and promote water conservation and sustainable development.		
Amount Awarded:	\$20,000		
Geographical Area	South East (Dartmouth)		
Organization Name:	Neighborhood of Affordable Housing Inc.		
Description:	To restore additional salt marsh area, help create the 'Creekside Commons' Park, and continue the development of new walkway along Mill Creek.		
Amount Awarded:	\$35,000		
Geographical Area	Greater Boston	(Chelsea)	
Organization Name:	Barnstable County Department of Health/Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative		
Description:	To evaluate performance of decentralized, on-site denitrifying sewage treatment systems.		
Amount Awarded:	\$26,110		
Geographical Area	Cape Cod		

Organization Name: Charles River Conservancy

Description: To prepare resources offering explanation of water quality and its effects on public swimming in the Charles River and other urban rivers.

Amount Awarded: \$15,000

Geographical Area: Boston

Organization Name: Jones River Watershed Association, Inc.

Description: To improve conditions in the Jones River and expand public knowledge regarding watershed health through integrated environmental education and outreach programs.

Amount Awarded: \$20,872

Geographical Area: South Shore (Kingston)

Organization Name: YMCA of Greater Boston

Description: To expand an existing partnership between the East Boston YMCA and Boston College's Urban Ecology Institute serving East Boston students with comprehensive environmental education and community service programming.

Amount Awarded: \$57,963

Geographical Area: Boston (East Boston)

Organization Name: Center for Global Health and the Environment, Harvard Medical School

Description: To conduct public screenings of the educational film "Once Upon a Tide" and to prepare translations and accompanying materials.

Amount Awarded: \$15,000

Geographical Area: Greater Boston

Organization Name: Berlin Memorial School

Description: To expand the use of the EIC Model to the second grade at Berlin Memorial School.

Amount Awarded: \$6,000

Geographical Area: Western (Berlin)

Organization Name:	Nashua River Watershed Association
Description:	To integrate the EIC Model into the curriculum at J.R. Briggs and at Fall Brook Elementary Schools.
Amount Awarded:	\$21,600
Geographical Area	Central (Leominster & Ashburnham)

Organization Name:	Stellwagen Alive! Friends of Our National Marine Sanctuary
Description:	To work with fishermen to recover and dispose of derelict fishing gear from the Stellwagen Bank NMS.
Amount Awarded:	\$29,942
Geographical Area	South Shore

Organization Name:	Athol Bird and Nature Club, Inc.
Description:	To use the EIC curriculum to design stewardship projects that provide students the opportunity to learn required curriculum in a local context in 4 school districts.
Amount Awarded:	\$20,000
Geographical Area	Western (Athol)

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